

Amendments to the Specification:

*Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 9 with the following amended paragraph:*

The local attributes of a pixel can also include a depth value corresponding to a distance between the object represented by the pixel and a reference point defined by a focal distance at which an object is in focus when it is imaged by a conventional or a digital camera. The optics of the camera maps objects at the focal distance to a focal plane defined by the film of the conventional camera or the sensor array of the digital camera. Objects that are closer or farther away than the focal distance are mapped in front of, or behind the focal plane and may appear blurred in the photograph. For a digital image, the depth values of the pixels can be arbitrarily defined or altered by a user or a computer application.

*Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 27 with the following amended paragraph:*

A traditional filtering effect is depth of field filtering that changes the depth in which objects seem to be in focus even though they are closer or farther away than the focal distance. A large depth of field implies that objects seem to be in focus even at distances that are much larger or smaller than the focal distance. A small depth of field implies that only objects at, or near the focal distance seem to be in focus and other objects seem blurred. To narrow a large depth of field electronically, a blur filter can be selectively applied to different portions of a digital image. No blur is applied to image portions representing objects at the focal distance, and the closer or farther away an object is than the focal distance, the more blur is applied to the image portion representing that object.